

# DEFENCES OF THE HARBOR OF CHARLESTON, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF ARMS.

## LETTER

FROM

## THE SECRETARY OF WAR, AD INTERIM,

IN REFERENCE TO

*The defences of the harbor of Charleston, and the distribution of arms.*

JANUARY 9, 1861.—Ordered to be printed and recommitted to the Committee on Military Affairs.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 3, 1861.*

SIR: In answer to your letter asking for information on certain points specified in a resolution adopted by the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives, on the 18th ultimo, I have the honor to state as follows:

According to the latest report of the engineer officer having charge of the construction of the defences of the harbor of Charleston, everything practicable had been done to place Fort Moultrie in an efficient condition, and with a proper garrison it was deemed susceptible of an energetic defence. There were then employed at that work one officer and one hundred and twenty workmen, independent of the regular garrison. On the evening of the 26th ultimo, Major Robert Anderson, 1st artillery, in command of the troops in Charleston harbor, apprehensive of the safety of his command from the insecurity of the fort, and having reason to believe that the South Carolinians contemplated or were preparing to proceed to a hostile act against him, and desiring to prevent a collision and the effusion of blood, evacuated Fort Moultrie, after leaving orders for spiking the cannon and disabling some of the carriages, and removed his forces to Fort Sumter, where they now are.

Castle Pinckney was, at the date of the latest report, in good condition as regards preparation, and, with a proper garrison, as defensible as it can be made. One officer and thirty workmen were engaged in

the repair of the cisterns, replacing decayed banquettes, and attending to other matters of detail.

Since the dates of the reports referred to, Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney have been taken possession of by troops of the State of South Carolina, acting under the orders of the governor, and are now held by those troops, with all the armament and other public property therein at the time of their seizure.

I enclose a statement, No. 1, of the number and description of ordnance and arms, at the date of the last returns, at Fort Moultrie, Castle Pinckney, and Charleston arsenal, respectively. That arsenal, with all its contents, was also taken possession of on the 30th ultimo, by an armed body of South Carolina troops, acting under orders of the governor of the State, as represented in the following report of Frederick C. Humphreys, military storekeeper of ordnance in charge, viz:

"This arsenal was taken by force of arms by the militia of South Carolina, by order of Governor Pickens. The commanding officer was allowed to salute his flag before lowering it, with one gun for each State now in the Union (*thirty-two*) and to take it with him, and the detachment to occupy the quarters until instructions from Washington can be obtained."

At that time the force under his control consisted of nine enlisted soldiers of ordnance and six hired men.

The other information asked for in regard to the number and description of arms "distributed since the first day of January, 1860, and to whom and at what price," will be found in the accompanying statements, Nos. 2 and 3, from the Ordnance bureau. It is deemed proper to state, in further explanation of statement No. 2, that where no distribution appears to have been made to a State or Territory, or where the amount of the distribution is small, it is because such State or Territory has not called for all the arms due on its quotas, and remains a creditor for dues not distributed, which can be obtained at any time on requisition therefor.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. HOLT,

*Secretary of War, ad interim.*

Hon. BENJAMIN STANTON,

*Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives.*

## No. 1.

*Quantity and description of ordnance and arms at Fort Moultrie, Castle Pinckney, and Charleston arsenal.*

	Fort Moultrie.	Castle Pinckney.	Charleston arsenal.
42-pounder iron guns.....		4	
32-pounder iron guns.....	14		
24-pounder iron guns.....	16	14	
8-inch iron columbiads.....	10		
8-inch iron sea-coast howitzers.....	5	4	
24-pounder iron flank howitzers.....	4		
12-pounder brass field howitzers.....	2		
6-pounder brass field guns.....	4		
6-pounder old iron field guns.....			2
24-pounder old iron field howitzers.....			5
Flint-lock muskets, calibre .69.....			502
Flint-lock muskets, altered to percussion.....			5,720
Percussion muskets, calibre .69.....			11,693
Percussion rifles, calibre .54.....			2,808
Same altered, with long range sights.....			6
Flint-lock Hall's rifles.....			566
Percussion rifled carbines.....			4
Percussion carbines.....			9
Flint-lock pistols.....			815
Percussion pistols.....			300

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 3, 1861.*

*Number and description of arms distributed since the 1st of January, 1860, to the States and Territories, and at what price.*

States and Territories.	6-pdr. bronze guns.		12-pdr. bronze howitzers.		12-pdr. navy howitzers.		Mountain howit- zers.		Rifle muskets; calibre, 0.58-in.		Percussion mus- kets; cal., 0.69-in.		Cad. muskets; calibre, 0.58-in		Musketoons, calibre, 0.69-in.	
	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.
Maine.....									300	\$13 93						
New Hampshire.....									800							
Massachusetts.....									150							
Vermont.....									240							
Connecticut.....									192							
New York.....																
New Jersey.....																
Maryland.....					6	\$207 00			400							
Virginia.....											450	\$13 25				
North Carolina.....																
South Carolina.....									646							
Georgia.....									390				122	\$15 20		
Florida.....									100							
Alabama.....									170							
Louisiana.....													150			
Mississippi.....	6	\$400 00	2	\$360 00									185			
Tennessee.....									701				381			
Kentucky.....									600							
Ohio.....									160							
Michigan.....									573							
Indiana.....							1	\$165 00	80		120	\$13 25	80		1	\$11 00
Illinois.....									80							
Wisconsin.....									252							
Missouri.....									100							
Iowa.....									115							
California.....									283							
Minnesota.....																
Oregon.....	4															
Washington Territory.....																
Nebraska Territory.....																
Kansas Territory.....	2						1	165 00	52				39			
New Mexico Territory.....																
District of Columbia.....							1	165 00	458						4	11 00
Pennsylvania.....									1,011							
	12		2		6		3		7,853		570		948		5	

No. 2.—Number and description of arms distributed since the 1st of January, 1860, &c.—Continued.

States and Territories.	Long range rifles; calibre, 0.58-in.		Percussion rifles; calibre, 0.54-in.		Colt's rifles.		Hall's carbines.		Sharp's car- bines.		Colt's artillery carbines.		Colt's cavalry carbines.		Percussion pis- tols.		Colt's belt pistols.	
	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.
Maine.....																		
New Hampshire.....																		
Massachusetts.....	100	\$17 43																
Vermont.....																		
Connecticut.....					1	\$42 50			1	\$30 00	1	\$35 00	1	\$32 50				
New York.....	420																	
New Jersey.....	100																	
Maryland.....																		
Virginia.....	50																	
North Carolina.....	311																	
South Carolina.....																	40	\$18 00
Georgia.....																		
Florida.....																		
Alabama.....																		
Louisiana.....	104														60	\$7 00	8	
Mississippi.....	212																	
Tennessee.....	1								1	30 00					1		1	
Kentucky.....	8																	
Ohio.....																		
Michigan.....	170																	
Indiana.....	1						1	\$17 00	1	30 00	1	35 00	1	32 50	40	7 00	20	
Illinois.....																	3	
Wisconsin.....			40	\$12 88													8	
Missouri.....	12																	
Iowa.....	115																	
California.....																		
Minnesota.....																		
Oregon.....					2	42 50												
Washington Territory.....																	40	
Nebraska Territory.....									10	30 00					20	7 00	20	
Kansas Territory.....	10				10	42 50			20								20	
New Mexico Territory.....			220	12 88														
District of Columbia.....																		
Pennsylvania.....	42	17 43	40	12 88											158	7 00		
	1,728		300		13		1		33		2		2		279		164	



No. 2.—Number and description of arms distributed since the 1st of January, 1860, &amp;c.—Continued.

States and Territories.	Colt's holster pistols.		Adams's belt pistols.		Colt's holster pistols, with attachment.		Cavalry sabres, heavy.		Cavalry sabres, light.		Horse artillery sabres.		Non-commissioned officers' swords.		Musicians' swords.		Artillery swords.	
	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.	No.	Price.
Maine.....						<i>Per pair.</i>												
New Hampshire.....							132	\$7 50									50	\$4 00
Massachusetts.....																		
Vermont.....																		
Connecticut.....																		
New York.....					1	\$50 00											50	4 00
New Jersey.....													50	\$5 50				
Maryland.....																		
Virginia.....							100	7 50										
North Carolina.....																		
South Carolina.....																		
Georgia.....							40	7 50										
Florida.....									132	\$8 50								
Alabama.....																		
Louisiana.....							30	7 50					10		10	\$4 40		
Mississippi.....																		
Tennessee.....									1	8 50	1	\$5 50	1		1		1	4 00
Kentucky.....																		
Ohio.....											50		50		50			
Michigan.....													50					
Indiana.....																		
Illinois.....							40	7 50			100							
Wisconsin.....													12				20	4 00
Missouri.....													8					
Iowa.....																		
California.....																		
Minnesota.....																		
Oregon.....																		
Washington Territory.....					33	50 00												
Nebraska Territory.....	30	\$22 50			5		10	7 50									10	4 00
Kansas Territory.....																		
New Mexico Territory.....									50	8 50	25		20		6	4 40		
District of Columbia.....													65	5 50	36	4 40		
Pennsylvania.....			27	\$18 00			74	7 50										
	30		27		39		426		183		176		266		103		131	

No. 3.

*Statement of arms distributed by sale since the first of January, 1860, to whom sold, at what price, and place whence sold.*

To whom sold.	Number and kind of arms.	Price.	Date of sale.	Where sold.
J. W. Zacharie & Co. ....	4,000 flint lock muskets altered to percussion, each.	\$2 50	Feb. 3, 1860	St. Louis arsenal.
James T. Ames.....	1,000 do..... do..... do....	2 50	Mar. 14, 1860	New York arsenal.
Captain G. Barry.....	80 do..... do..... do....	2 00	June 11, 1860	St. Louis arsenal.
W. C. N. Swift.....	400 do..... do..... do....	2 50	Aug. 31, 1860	Springfield armory.
Do.....	80 do..... do..... do....	2 50	Nov. 13, 1860	Do.
State of Alabama.....	1,000 do..... do..... do....	2 50	Sept. 27, 1860	Baton Rouge arsenal.
Do.....	2,500 do..... do..... do....	2 50	Nov. 14, 1860	Do.
State of Virginia.....	5,000 do..... do..... do....	2 50	Nov. 6, 1860	Washington arsenal.
Phillips County, Arkansas, Volunteers.....	50 do..... do..... do....	2 00	Nov. 16, 1860	St. Louis arsenal.
G. B. Lamar.....	10,000 do..... do..... do....	2 50	Nov. 24, 1860	Watervliet arsenal.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, December 21, 1860.

WM. MAYNADIER, *Captain of Ordnance.*

